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AUGUST 19, 1945 — AUGUST 19, 1970

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST REVOLUTION

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Twenty - five years ago, *on August 13, 1945, in this cottage, which served as communal house of Tan Trao village (Tuyen Quang province),* a **National Convention** *of the Indochinese Communist Party decided the* **General Insurrection.**

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Tracing to Its Source

AROUND the cot of the baby there were but malevolent fairies ready to put a curse on it. Nevertheless the baby grew up after gradually getting rid of all its enemies; now it has become a strongly-built, nimble and clever lad victoriously confronting a giant feared by all.

Let's go back to these first dramatic days when the evil sprites were circling the cradle. It was 1945. The Japanese still occupied Viet Nam but the French, British and Chiang Kai-shek troops were ready to fall on Indochina. Each of these imperialist powers nurtured its own designs upon this land but they all shared the same goal, that of scotching the Vietnamese revolution, preventing Viet Nam from gaining her independence and freedom, for it was the *sine qua non* condition of the success of their venture.

However, an unexpected event — at least for the imperialist leaders — upset all their plan. The foreign troops who had brought quailings in their band-wagons did not find any "vacuum" but ran into a national and popular government, solidly established, which was ready to resist with might and main all attempts at annexation. For many foreigners, that government of the DRVN literally sprang up from nothingness. In fact, they were completely ignorant of the great political and social effervescence which had been agitating Viet Nam since 1939, and of the elaborate preparations, and the rapid and powerful revolutionary movement in Viet Nam during World War II, which led to the great successful insurrection in August 1945.

The DRVN government had neither mighty weapons nor abundant financial resources, nor skilful technicians and officers; the country was in the throes of a catastrophic famine, and looked like a lonely island surrounded by the imperialist forces resolved to blot it out, and deprived of any aid from friends in the world.

But, from the outset, the DRVN proudly turned down a "technical and financial aid" offered by the US; and neither the Japanese, nor the British, nor the Chiang Kai-shek soldiery succeeded in trampling upon her sovereignty. When the need arose, she called on the entire nation to rise up in arms against the French colonialist aggressors.

That vigour and dynamism of the new regime has always remained beyond the comprehension of those who do not know how the August 1945 revolution was victorious, how it was prepared and led.

WHEN World War II broke out in 1939 the French colonialists set up a true fascist regime in Indochina. Then in 1940, the Japanese troops moved in and put another yoke on the Vietnamese people. That Franco-Japanese dual occupation seemed to forestall all efforts for national liberation.

However, on November 6, 1939 the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party (now the Viet Nam Workers' Party) defined a new line for the national movement:

"To survive, the Indochinese peoples have no other alternative than to overthrow French imperialism."

And it had at once to buckle down to **"preparing facilities for an action of violence."** In June 1941 the line became more explicit:

"The revolution must wind up with an armed uprising."

The definition of that new revolutionary line was based on an accurate appraisal of the situation at home and abroad. The war — between the imperialists for a new partition of the world, outcome of contradictions inherent in the imperialist system — would certainly aggravate and generate serious national and international crises in the political and economic fields, and give strong fillip to all the revolutionary movements in the world. Their exploitation and oppression by the colonial regime would draw stronger and stronger opposition from all the social strata; under Japanese occupation, the Party urged the people to fight Japanese fascism, for it was imperious to topple imperialism, whatever the skin complexion of its leaders. Fascism which was in sharp conflict with democratic and progressive forces in the world, would necessarily be defeated. The double French and Japanese rule bore down heavily on all social segments including the bourgeoisie and a group of landlords.

Conditions were thus ripe at home and abroad for the preparation of a widespread revolutionary movement which would lead to a general insurrection.

SUCH an uprising was set on foot by organizing the necessary political and armed forces and creating favourable conditions as soon as possible, by inciting revolutionary, political, social, economic and armed actions in the towns, countryside and mountain regions in order to touch off a nationwide action in the nick of time.

Guerilla units were set up while mass political organizations stepped up their activities; in areas too difficult of access for the enemy control to be effective, revolutionary bases were established (particularly in Viet Bac). In 1941, the Viet Minh Front was founded with a national and democratic program.

Well-conducted political actions, supported when necessary by armed actions, succeeded in neutralizing one by one the village authorities or even inclining them to act in favour of the revolution without having to topple them. These basic embryos were relatively safe zones for political action and the training of the armed forces; their existence had a strong impact on the minds of people in other areas.

In town and country, the action was essentially political, social or economic. The rousing of the popular masses, chiefly countryfolk,

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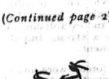


Hanoi Press Opinion

U.S. "Cease-fire" Plan in Mid-East

ACCORDING to foreign reports, at a press conference on June 25, US Secretary of State William P. Rogers made public a plan on the Middle-East question. The plan proposes a cease-fire by the two sides, the United Arab Republic and Israel, during a limited time of 90 days and indirect negotiations under the auspices of a U.N. special envoy, to settle the conflict between them. The government of the United Arab Republic and the government of the Jordan have accepted this US plan. The Israeli authorities have also accepted the cease-fire. The same sources said Libya, Sudan and Lebanon have sided with the United Arab Republic while Syria, Iraq, Algeria, South Yemen and the liberation organizations of Palestine rejected the US plan.

Everyone knows that the root cause of the present tension in the Middle and Near East is US intervention and aggression. The US imperialists instigated, and assisted Israel in an aggression against the Arab countries in June 1967. Since its assuming power, the Nixon administration has unceasingly aided and abetted the Israeli aggressors in heinous crimes against the Arab and Palestinian peoples in the temporarily occupied areas, in military operations deep into the territory of the UAR, Syria and Jordan, and in the heaviest air raids against these countries since the cease-fire in June 1967. At the same time, the US put forward deceitful "peace plans" which were essentially aimed at supporting the ambitions of the Israeli aggressors to force the Arab countries to accept a solution beneficial to the US and its Israeli henchmen.

But the peremptory schemes and acts of the US and Israel did not succeed in preventing the growing resistance of the Arab and Palestinian peoples. The Arab peoples unceasingly strengthened and developed their force and fought back the attacks of the aggressors. The liberation movement of the Palestinian people consolidated its unity in organization and command. With its growing armed forces, the movement fought relentlessly and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The resistance of the Arab and Palestinian peoples which enjoys the support of the socialist countries and the peace-loving people all over the world still has to go through many trials and hardships before winning final victory.

In face of the unceasing growth of the Arab forces and the Palestinian liberation forces, the US imperialists made frenzied attempts of sabotage. On the one hand, they increased aid to the Israeli aggressors, and on the other raved about the so-called "danger of a big war in the Middle-East," reiterated US commitments to the security and interests of Israel and insolently declared that the US would allow the balance of forces in the Middle-East to change to the detriment of Israel.

The US scheme is of the darkest dye. Rogers' 90-day cease-fire proposal advanced at a time when Israeli aggressor troops still occupy many areas of the Arab countries is obviously intended to help the Israeli aggressors grab part of the Arab territory and improve their position with a view to securing a position of strength in negotiation. At the same time it is also intended to create conditions for Israel to increase its forces for an eventual renewed attack on the Arab countries in case a political solution beneficial to the US and Israel is not found. By proposing a cease-fire, the US also attempts to divide and weaken the resistance of the peoples of the Arab countries and to stamp out the liberation movement of the Palestinian people.

That is why the US proposal has been rejected and strongly condemned by the Arab peoples and the Palestine liberation movement. Especially, during recent days, many turbulent demonstrations in protest against the US scheme have been staged in the capitals of many Arab countries. The cease-fire has come into effect on the Suez battle front, yet the Palestinian guerillas continue their armed struggle against the Israeli aggressors and fighting is going on in the Jordanian and Syria-Lebanon fronts. Well aware of the US imperialists' and the Israeli aggressors' trickiness, the peoples of the Arab countries are heightening their vigilance, and increasing their forces, remain alert and stand ready to frustrate all the manoeuvres behind Rogers' cease-fire proposal.

Standing on the forefront of the struggle against US imperialism, the Vietnamese people have followed with deep concern the fight of the Arab peoples, their intimate comrades-in-arms and brothers. The Vietnamese people fully support the Arab peoples' legitimate struggle against the US imperialists and Israeli henchmen to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and their other fundamental national rights. The statement of February 15, 1970 of the Foreign Ministry of the DRVN has clearly expounded the position of our Government and people in this connection. We hold that the Middle-East problem can be settled only on the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the Palestinian people and the peoples of the other Arab countries. The US must give up its policy of intervention and aggression, stop using Israel as a shock force to carry out its imperialist policy. The Israeli aggressors must withdraw unconditionally all their troops from the Arab territories they are occupying.

The present era is the era when the revolutionary forces on the offensive are repeatedly attacking imperialism, the era of awakening of the world's peoples. The present juncture definitely will not allow the US to realize its perfidious manoeuvres and ambitions. We are firmly convinced that by closing their ranks, heightening their vigilance, fighting with determination and with widespread international sympathy and support, the Arab and Palestinian peoples will certainly defeat all moves of the US imperialists, succeed in driving away the Israeli aggressors from the occupied Arab territories and safeguarding their sacred national rights, thus contributing to the struggle against imperialism for national independence, peace and justice in the world.

Nhan Dan (The People)
Aug. 12, 1970

Tracing to Its Source

(*Continued from page 1*)

against the uprooting of rice plants (to grow crops needed by the Japanese to meet their war requirements), against exactions and brutalities of the occupiers, rapidly enhanced the people's combativeness and organizational abilities. When famine was rife in 1944-1945, the sacking by the masses of rice granaries held by the Japanese troops were frequent.

IT was also necessary to foresee and take the occasion by the forelock to launch the insurrection.

A new situation emerged when on March 9, 1945, the Japanese ousted the French colonialists and installed the puppet Bao Dai-Tran Trong Kim regime. The administrative apparatus set up by the French collapsed, the one propped up by the Japanese had not started functioning yet.

The well-prepared revolutionary movement spread swiftly to all regions, which prevented the enemy from concentrating his repressive forces in one area.

The political awareness of the masses rose high while in the revolutionary bases, more and more safe and extensive, the guerilla and militia units increased their build-up. In June 1945, the large base in the North involved six provinces and the enemy's local administration was overthrown. The co-ordination of the two forms of struggle — preparation of insurrection in all regions and establishment of revolutionary bases — gave a strong impulse to the revolutionary movement.

The armed forces were made up of the most dynamic and most combative elements recruited from among members of mass political organizations. Then from self-defence forces and guerilla units, the first armed propaganda section of the Liberation Army was formed in 1944. Guerilla activities were stepped up on a local scale to support those for the seizure of local power. Thus the political and armed forces grew up rapidly.

At the Viet Minh's call, seizures by guerillas and peasants of rice stocks and political agitation in urban centres were intensified. Liberation Committees came into being everywhere, in villages, districts and provinces, the first embryos of the revolutionary power.

While preparations for the insurrection were in full swing in all localities, the count-down was started in terms of days.

On March 13, 1945, a Party's directive made it clear that:

"If the Japanese lost the war like the French in 1940, their expeditionary forces' morale would sag; then even if the Allied troops did not make any landing yet, we could trigger off the insurrection and bring it to success."

On August 13, 1945, the Party's National Conference gave orders to **"occupy the main bases, including towns, before the arrival of Allied forces."**

On August 16, the Viet Minh summoned a National Convention which decided: **"To snatch power from the hands of the Japanese and the puppet government before the landing of Allied troops in order to receive in the capacity of masters of the country, these forces coming to disarm the Japanese."** A national and democratic program was set afoot, and a National Liberation Committee appointed to do the duty of a provisional government headed by Ho Chi Minh who right away addressed a stirring call to the people:

"It is a decisive hour for the destiny of the nation. Let all of us rise up and exert all efforts to liberate ourselves. Many peoples in the world are standing up to conquer their independence. We cannot afford to lag behind. Forward!"

The Liberation Army marched on Thai Nguyen and liberated it. Everywhere mass organizations, guerilla and militia units were set on the move. In each village and town, the entire population rose up, besieging administrative offices and military posts, with the support of armed groups. Demoralized, the Japanese garrisons, most of the time, let themselves be disarmed, the quislings took to flight or surrendered their power to the revolutionaries.

In Hanoi, Hue and Saigon, crowds of hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets and staged resolute actions which thwarted all attempts of reactionary organization. Bao Dai abdicated and handed over to the revolutionary power the dynastic seal and sword, symbols of the royal power.

Together with the colonial regime, the monarchic rule vanished.

Viet Nam became again an independent country after nearly a century of heroic efforts against colonial domination.

The August Revolution dealt a hard blow at the colonial system, and with other movements in the world, ushered in the era of liquidation of colonial empires. Its triumph was not in the least an "accident." The entire participation of the popular masses, a judicious and bold leadership and appropriate methods of struggle had worked as they were going to do eventually to lead the Vietnamese people to victory in the first resistance war against French colonialism and now in the fight against US aggression.

A new historic epoch opened up for the Vietnamese people who ever since have unceasingly developed and strengthened themselves. US imperialism will have made all its efforts in vain and will never be able to impose a new colonial yoke on Viet Nam and Indochina!

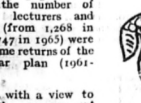
2-9-1945 2-9-1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF INTELLECTUALS

(25 Years of Higher and Vocational Education)

AS early as the 11th century, Viet Nam already boasted a university education founded on classical humanities. In the Temple of Literature built in Hanoi in 1070, two rows of slabstones with names of laureates at triennial competitive examinations inscribed on them in the 14th century can still be seen. Many of them still live in the memory of the people, some as scholars famous for their erudition and their pedagogy, others, as civil and military mandarins reputed for their combat exploits and devotion to the people.



However, with the decline of feudalism, particularly from the 18th century, this education became bookish, formal and completely divorced from life.

Under French colonization, education became an instrument of enslavement. Until 1934, the colonialists ran only middle technical schools of Medicine, Law, Pedagogy, Public Works, Commerce, Agriculture and Fine Arts to turn out technical and auxiliary staff necessary for colonization. From 1934 to 1945, under popular pressure for a more progressive and more developed education, the French had to establish, for all of Indochina, a university and some so-called "high" schools such as the High School of Agriculture, the High School of Public Works, the Fine Arts School, the High School of Sciences (in 1943). French was the teaching medium for all degrees of education and university professors were all French. Enrolment, at its record high in 1939, was about 600 (including French, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao students) for all faculties and high schools...

With the reconquest of independence, the aspirations of the Vietnamese people who have a passion for learning and culture could be met.

FOR A NATIONAL AND MODERN HIGHER EDUCATION

IMMEDIATELY after the establishment of people's power, in spite of all kinds of difficulties that beset our budding republic, the government re-opened all the faculties, except the Faculty of Law, and Vietnamese professors gave lectures in the native tongue. Our students, for the most part hunted by the colonial police because of their revolutionary activities, regained their amphitheatres in the general enthusiastic atmosphere, proud of having recovered their university and learning in their mother idiom.

Soon afterwards, in 1946, the nation-wide resistance broke out. The Faculty of Medicine was transferred to one of our bases where the training of medical workers necessary for combat continued uninterruptedly. In 1949, the High School of Public Works saw the light in the liberated zone. While organization of defence work was in full swing, President Ho Chi Minh gave specific instructions to the Ministry of Education to readjust the educational system to the conditions and the needs of war: education must serve the war of Resistance, the school must be in close touch with life, production and defence. Like all other schools, the Faculty of Medicine and the High School of Public Works were reshaped to serve the Resistance more effectively. Our students devoted one-half day to study, and the other half to production and defence jobs.

From 1950 to 1951, the first school reform took place, which was to affirm and accentuate the triple characteristics of our new education—national, scientific and popular. In higher education, as at other levels, this reform was aimed at building a revolutionary and combative education, and it opposed the unsound concept of "school neutrality" propagated by colonial education for nearly a century. It pointed to the object of the training: the new man loving his fatherland, proud of his national traditions, indomitable in the battle for independence. Functioning in the Resistance bases, the faculties and high schools drew in children of the labouring masses in increasing number.

In 1951, with the victorious advance of our Resistance, 8 secondary technical schools and 3 new high schools were founded: the High School of Sciences, the Normal School of Fundamental Sciences and the Normal School of Social Sciences. The number of students went up to 800, and that of pupils of secondary technical schools to 3,000. In the same period and until 1954, 600 students and 150 pupils of secondary technical schools were sent to socialist institutions abroad.

In 1954, following the signing of the Geneva Agreements, our higher education took over the completely empty Hanoi university, comprising, nominally, a Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, a Faculty of Sciences and a Faculty of Law. The Teachers' Training College was not a part of it, and the teaching personnel, mostly French, with some clergymen, followed in the wake of the retreating French Expeditionary Corps. Laboratories were gutted. Secondary technical education was non-existent.

In the course of post-war economic rehabilitation and social transformation of the country (1954-1960), higher learning and secondary technical education were assigned the task of training scientific and technical workers for the building of socialism. In turns, 10 faculties were established: Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Faculty of Sciences, Hanoi Teachers' Training College, Vinh Teachers' Training College, Polytechnical College, Institute of Agriculture, Institute of Hydraulics, College of Communications and Transport, College of Economic and Financial Sciences and College of Arts. In 1960, the new student body numbered 8,100. 85 new secondary technical schools had an enrolment of 30,700.

This tremendous and rapid growth gave rise to a serious difficulty: an acute shortage of the teaching personnel, professors and lecturers. Our old professors of higher and secondary education had to take charge of new classes. At the same time, assistants were recruited from among the first batches of graduates from the Faculties and Institutes founded after the war. The socialist countries gave us great help with equipment for the schools, laboratories and libraries and with specialists for the building of our socialist higher education.

The 3rd National Congress of the Workers' Party held in 1960, which defined the general line of socialist construction, gave new directives to education, calling for its extensive development one step ahead of other branches of activity, for an all-round and comprehensive formation of the young generations in the moral, educational and physical fields.

Higher education establishments and secondary technical schools must become nurseries of future workers, masters of their country, loving their fatherland and the socialist regime, being both educated and expert, and physically fit, to actively serve the Revolution and the people later on.

The emergence of 6 new colleges (bringing the total to 16) and 47 new secondary technical schools (total: 112), the rapid increase of the school population (from 15,600 in 1961 to 26,100 in 1965 for students, and from 31,000 to 33,600 for secondary technical pupils) and that of the number of professors, lecturers and assistants (from 1,268 in 1961 to 2,747 in 1965) were the handsome returns of the first 5-year plan (1961-1965).

In 1965, with a view to ensuring the progress of both the fighting and production, to combat the Americans and at the same time build socialism, a decision of the Political Bureau gave a clear-cut orientation to higher education:

"In the new circumstances and in view of our new tasks ahead, the training and improvement of the standards of scientific and technical workers, and cadres for economic management, should not slow down. Education must see a vigorous development and prepare a contingent of cadres to meet the country's needs."

In October 1965, the Ministry of Higher Learning and Secondary Technical Education was created with the task of developing education on a large scale and raising the quality of **the training of cadres.**

All colleges and secondary technical schools had to evacuate from cities and provincial capitals. Dispersed to the jungles and the countryside, teachers and pupils, assisted by the local people, erected new establishments and saw to the smooth functioning of education in spite of American bombing.

During the 4 years of war, our colleges and secondary technical schools knew how to apply in a creative manner the fundamental principle of our education: closely linking school to life, to production and the revolutionary tasks of our people, "studying and working simultaneously." The training of cadres has been able to increase and consolidate its impact on everyday life. Our students and pupils have had multiple occasions to apply the theories learnt at school in the social reality and participate in productive work.

(*Continued page 7*)

SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION AND ANTI-US RESISTANCE

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (1954—1970)

Second Stage 1965—1970

1965

January :

— The National Defence Council presided over by Ho Chi Minh set forth future tasks and directions for national defence.

February :

6 — Visit of a Soviet Party and Government delegation headed by Kosygin.

7 — Beginning of US bombardment : Dong Hoi, Con Co, Vinh Linh hit.

March :

1-9 — DRVN delegates attended Indochinese People's Conference in Phnom Penh.

8 — Inauguration of the "March 8th" textile mill built with Chinese aid.

15 — First US plane downed in the North by rifles of Nghe An militia.

April :

3 — 57 US planes brought down in two days. First engagement of DRVN air force.

7 — A Party and Government delegation headed by Le Duan visited the Soviet Union and China.

8 DRVN's four points put forth as basis for peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem.

14 — A Government delegation led by Pham Van Dong visited Indonesia and attended the 10th anniversary of the Bandung Conference.

June :

1 — An economic delegation under Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi toured the Soviet Union, China and some other socialist countries and signed aid agreements with them.

2 — Second meeting in Hanoi of the International TU Committee of Solidarity with Vietnamese Workers and People against US Imperialist Aggression.

9 — Visit of an Algerian National Assembly and Government delegation.

12 — US planes destroyed the Quynh Lap leper-sanatorium.

29 — First US air raid on Hanoi.

— Setting up of shock youth brigades in the anti-US struggle.

July :

20 — President Ho Chi Minh launched an appeal to the nation in which he said : "We are determined to fight till final victory even if we have to go on fighting another 5 years, 10 years, 20 years or even longer."

August :

2 — DRVN Government statement on the massive landing of US troops in South Viet Nam and stepping-up of US aggressive war.

9 — The National Assembly Standing Committee approved the 1965 plan of economic development.

29 — The 500th US plane shot down in North Viet Nam (over Nghe An).

October :

— Instructions of the Secretariat of the CC of the VNWP giving a new turn to the movement of improvement of management of agricultural co-operatives, improvement of technique and development of agriculture in the delta and midlands.

— Visit of a Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party delegation.

November :

15 — Visit of a delegation of PLAF heroes and emulation fighters to North Viet Nam.

— National Congress on the development of regional industry in 1966-1967.

1966

January :

4 — Conference in Hanoi of 650 Vietnamese intellectuals against US aggression.

24 — President Ho Chi Minh addressed to many heads of State a message denouncing US aggressive scheme and the Johnson administration's "search of peace" trick.

March :

— A Party delegation led by Le Duan visited China and attended the 23rd Congress of the CPSU in Moscow.

April :

12 — First B-52 raid over North Viet Nam.

16 — The National Assembly approved the 2-year plan of economic development (1966-67) and the 1966 State plan, and issued a statement on the new situation.

29 — The 1,000th US plane downed in North Viet Nam (over Bac Thai).

May :

5 — Visit of a Rumanian Party and Government delegation.

June :

7 — Meeting of the National Defence Council outlined major policies on the acceleration of the patriotic war against US aggression.

July :

— President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree on partial mobilization.

— Setting-up of the Commission of Investigation of US War Crimes in Viet Nam.

17 — President Ho Chi Minh sent a message to the people in which he said "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

August :

18 — A Government economic delegation headed by Le Thanh Nghi visited the socialist countries to sign aid agreements.

— Resolution of the Political Bureau of the VNWP on the training and fostering of scientific and technical cadres.

September :

23 — Visit of a Czechoslovak Party and Government delegation.

October :

10 — Visit of a Bulgarian Party and Government delegation.

14 — The 1,500th US plane was downed in North Viet Nam (over Nghe An province.)

— End of October : visit of a Cuban Party and Government delegation.

December :

12 — The South Viet Nam NFL Special Permanent Delegation set up in Hanoi.

1967

January:

4 — Congress of heroes and emulation fighters in the anti-US struggle met in Hanoi.

13 — Meeting of the light industry branch to consider means to serve the regional economy and production of consumer goods.

February :

6 — Thai Binh recognized as the first province in North Viet Nam to harvest 5 tons of paddy per hectare on all its acreage of ricefields ; some co-operatives yielded up to 7 tons per hectare.

9 — In his reply to Pope Paul VI, President Ho Chi Minh condemned US aggression in Viet Nam.

— All-North Viet Nam hydraulic conference stressed resolve to develop irrigation work for intensive culture under any circumstances.

— Conference on the protection and improvement of the people's health.

March :

1 — Resolution of the CC of the VNWP stressing the role played by women, and putting forth the policy of employing, promoting, training and fostering women cadres.

— Conference discussing the protection and education of children.

20 — President Ho Chi Minh's reply to President Johnson's letter made public : "As the US has kindled the war, the road to peace is that the US ends aggression."

April :

11 — Promulgation of a law on elections and institution of people's councils and administrative committees at all levels in war time.

— Resolution of the Party Secretariat on the development of scientific and technical work in the new situation.

23 — Elections to people's councils in all provinces, districts and villages in the North.

May :

2 — The Bertrand Russell International Tribunal to try US war crimes in Viet Nam held its first hearing in Stockholm. President Ho Chi Minh sent a letter to Lord B. Russell and Jean Paul Sartre, President of the Tribunal.

18 — Statement of the DRVN Government on the massive landing of US and puppet troops on the DMZ.

June :

5 — The 2,000th US plane downed in North Viet Nam was shot by Thanh Hoa province.

8 — DRVN Government statement recognizing present boundaries of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

July :

18 — The Ministry of Education held a press conference on the success of the 1966-1967 school-year : 5.6 million people attended school including 1.2 million adults in complementary classes.

20 — Decree issued by the Council of Ministers amending some regulations dealing with servicemen, cadres, factory and office workers and civilians wounded, or killed or disabled when discharging their duty in the anti-US struggle.

30 — The Council of Ministers decided to push up cultural and artistic work in the anti-US struggle.

August :

6 — Resolution of the Council of Ministers on measures taken to maintain the people's living standard in war time.

26 — Premier Pham Van Dong's statement expressing staunch support of the Vietnamese people for the righteous struggle of the Afro-American people.

September :

2 — The Council of Ministers approved a decision on the use of Gregorian calendar.

4 — DRVN Government statement expressing full suport to the South Viet Nam NFL political program (passed by an extraordinary congress of the NFL in August 1967).

17 — The first two B-52 strategic bombers shot down over Vinh Linh.

20 — 525th anniversary of the death of Nguyen Trai, an outstanding writer, statesman, thinker and national hero of Viet Nam.

October :

1 — Conference on the training and fostering of scientific and technical cadres and economic managerial cadres and on educational work.

30 — Government protest against US repeated air raids on Hanoi.

November :

6 — The 2,500th US plane downed in North Viet Nam over Hanoi.

7 — Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution.

December :

4 — With an average yearly yield of 5,479 kilograms of paddy per hectare, Thai Binh outranked the second time all the other provinces in North Viet Nam in rice output for the whole acreage of ricefields. Hanoi surburbs and 40 districts also harvested 5 tons of paddy per hectare per year.

11 — Resolution of the CC of the VNWP : "Step up the workers' movement and TU activities to meet the present situation."

1968

January :

— 500 local industrial enterprises commissioned.

— Oustanding achievements were recorded in 1967 by State agricultural farms : tea, coffee, pepper increased by from 3 to 43 per cent, cotton 47.7 per cent ; acreage of perennial trees and fruit-trees increased by 3.6 per cent over 1966, oxen by 2.9 per cent.

— 1967 State plan of salt production overfulfilled by 12.34 per cent, output increased by 16.63 per cent over 1966.

5 — The Forest Department reviewed its 1967 work : tree-planting work overfulfilled target by 20 per cent. In 1967, 150,000 hectares were planted with timber trees and fruit-trees, 13,000 tree-planting teams were set up by agricultural co-operatives (an increase of 114 per cent over 1966).

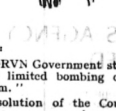
13 — The Council of Ministers passed new regulations on rewards to armymen's families in the anti-US struggle.

February :

4 — President Ho Chi Minh sent a message commending the South Viet Nam people and army for the general offensives and concerted uprisings at Mau Than *Tet* festival.

March :

14 — Ceremony to hand a gift from the North to the South : 50,000 tons of rice, 10 million metres of textiles, 100 tons of medicines.



April :

3 — DRVN Government statement on "US limited bombing of North Viet Nam."

— Resolution of the Council of Ministers on persuasion work for sedentary life combined with agricultural co-operation in mountain regions.

May :

3 — Statement of the Foreign Ministry on the level, place and time of official talks between the DRVN and the US.

7 — Minister of State Xuan Thuy, DRVN representative, left for Paris.

22 — First congress of communication and transport valiant fighters.

— A Government economic delegation headed by Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi toured the socialist countries and held talks with them on economic and military aids.

June :

25 — The 3,000th US plane was shot down by Quang Binh province.

July :

20 — The heavy industry branch convened a conference on measures to be taken to speed up the fulfilment of the 1968 State plan.

October :

— Beginning of term. President Ho Chi Minh sent to teachers and pupils a message urging them to "teach well and learn well."

November :

3 — The DRVN Government issued a statement on the US unconditional cessation of bombing of North Viet Nam. An appeal was made on this occasion by President Ho Chi Minh.

December :

2 — Conference of "Hanoi Intellectuals Resolved to Defeat US Aggressors."

31 — 3,598 production teams and brigades in North Viet Nam recognized as socialist labour units in 1968.

1969

January :

10 — Establishment of diplomatic relations between the DRVN and the Kingdom of Sweden.

18 — The quadripartite Paris Conference on Viet Nam held its first session.

February :

— In response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, in the past ten years (1959—1968) 1,440 million trees of different kinds were grown.

14 — The Agricultural Ministry launched an emulation drive to achieve the "three goals" : 5 tons of paddy, 2 pigs and one man-year per hectare of crop land.

26 — Visit of a South Viet Nam NFL delegation headed by Dr. Phung Van Cung, Vice-Chairman of the Front.

March :

24 — The Party Secretariat made public a resolution on the youth's activities.

April :

27 — Elections to people's city and town councils on the whole of North Viet Nam.

28 — The Standing Committee of the National Assembly endorsed a constitution for agricultural co-operatives. Afterwards discussions and dissemination of it were organized in all localities of the North.

May :

10 — The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front released a statement expressing its wholehearted support for the May 8 10-point overall solution of the SVN NFL on the Viet Nam issue.

June :

11 — President Ho Chi Minh and Premier Pham Van Dong sent a congratulatory message to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on its founding (June 8).

18 President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree awarding the title of "Hero Unit" to 17 units and that of "Hero of the People's Armed Forces" to 12 officers and men.

July :

8 — The Politbureau of the VNWP passed a resolution on the commemoration of four important anniversaries in 1970 :

— the 40th founding anniversary of the Party (Feb. 3),

— the 100th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birthday (Apr. 22),

— the 80th anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday (May 19),

— the 25th founding anniversary of the DRVN (Sept. 2).

27 — Visit of a delegation of American people's movements against the Viet Nam war.

— The achitectural branch held discussions on measures for stepping up the rate of civil and industrial constructions.

— The All-North Viet Nam breeders' conference strengthened their determination to attain the "two pigs per hectare of crop land" goal.

August :

5 — The Premier's Office convened a symposium on building and developing local industry.

13 — Visit of a delegation of the Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces of Viet Nam headed by its Chairman Trinh Dinh Thao.

September :

3 — President Ho Chi Minh passed away at the age of 79.

9 — A funeral ceremony for President Ho Chi Minh was solemnly held in Hanoi. Present were over a million Hanoians, South Viet Nam delegations, local representations and more than 40 foreign delegations. 22,000 messages and letters of condolence came in from 121 countries on the occasion.

23 — The National Assembly unanimously elected Ton Duc Thang President and Nguyen Luong Bang Vice-President of the DRVN.

October :

7 — A Party and Government delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong attended the commemoration of the 20th National Day of the German Democratic Republic.

10 — Visit to the USSR by the delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong.

November :

6 — Government statement severely criticized the "peace" protestations contained in President Nixon's Nov. 3, 1969 speech.

17 — All-North Viet Nam Conference of Dao nationality representatives.

December :

4 — The Ministry of Culture held a symposium dealing with the national and modern traits in Viet Nam music.

22 — On the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22), the National Assembly Standing Committee commended the exploits of the people's armed forces.

29 — The Information Office of the Lao Patriotic Front was set up in Hanoi.

1970

February :

3 — 40th founding anniversary of the VNWP commemorated throughout the country. An important speech delivered by First Secretary Le Duan (See translation under the title : *The Vietnamese Revolution-Fundamental Problems, Essential Tasks*).

9 — Inauguration of the Ho Chi Minh Museum in Pac Bo (Cao Bang province).

March :

— The VNWP CC decided to change the names of the Viet Nam Working Youth Union, the Viet Nam Youth Pioneers' Organization and the Viet Nam Children's Organization into the Ho Chi Minh Working Youth Union, the Ho Chi Minh Young Pioneers' Organization and the Ho Chi Minh Children's Organization, in memory of President Ho.

3 — Government Council decision on peasants' payment of taxes in kind and on allotment of foodstuffs.

9 — Government statement supporting the 5-point solution to the Lao problem made public on March 6, 1970 by the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front.

23 — Government statement on the present patriotic struggle of the Cambodian people. (After Lon Nol-Sirik Matak's March 18 coup d'état).

April :

18 — Government statement on the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique of traitors' atrocities against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

21 — A grand meeting to mark Lenin's 100th birthday anniversary was held in Hanoi.

23 — The VNWP Politbureau issued a resolution on the "campaign for enhancing party members' ethics and admitting into the Party a Ho Chi Minh batch."

24 — A delegation of the Vietnamese people led by Premier Pham Van Dong took part in the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference.

— Economic branches held congresses reviewing their activities in the 4 years of fighting US aggression.

May :

2 — Government statement condemning US brazen aggression against Cambodia and expansion of the war to the whole of Indochina.

19 — The whole country celebrated Ho Chi Minh's 80th birthday anniversary. The Party Committee on History Research edited a book entitled "President Ho Chi Minh - A Summary Biography."

26 — Visit of Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea. A joint communique was issued.

29 — The VNWP Politbureau endorsed a resolution on the campaign for strengthening the collective mastership of co-op members and boosting agricultural production.

June :

5 — The National Assembly passed the 1970 State plan.

IADL: "The Respect and Safeguarding of Fundamental National Rights Constitute the Very Corner-stone of Today's Law"

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers, at the conclusion of its Ninth Congress, which was held in Helsinki (Finland) from July 15 to 19, 1970 and which brought together more than 350 lawyers from 55 different countries of the world, issued an appeal to all the lawyers and peoples of the world. We publish below the first and second parts of the document:

I

A – American aggression against Viet Nam began on the very morrow of the 1954 Geneva Agreements which re-established peace in Indochina on the basis of recognition of the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and those of Cambodia and Laos, i.e. independence and national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and their self-determination without any foreign interference. Breaking its solemn undertaking at Geneva, the USA has systematically sabotaged peace in Indochina through the neo-colonialist wars which have been constantly thwarted and begun anew.

Since the March 18, 1970 *coup d'état* achieved by the oblique methods of the CIA, and the invasion of Cambodia by US and Saigon troops, the US has extended the war to the whole of Indochina. Thus instead of shortening the war, as President Nixon claimed, the so-called policy of "Vietnamization" of the war has been prolonging, intensifying and extending it. It is just a new form of US neo-colonialist aggression, camouflaged and aiming at silencing world public opinion and that of an indignant America, whose protest against the Viet Nam war has been on the upgrade.

The evil design of keeping up the aggression and extending it to the whole of Indochina explains the US downgrading of the Paris talks. The latest talk and declarations about "will for peace" by the Nixon administration at the time of the forced and provisional withdrawal of US land troops from Cambodia, the nomination of a new leader for the American Delegation at the quadripartite Paris conference and the meeting in Djakarta cannot deceive anybody. In his June 3rd report, Nixon declared cynically continuation of the occupation of Cambodia by Saigon puppet troops, support granted to them by the American air forces and preparation for satellites' to take part in the extension of the war.

The Nixon doctrine aims at making Indochinese kill Indochinese and Asians kill Asians, endangering peace and security in Southeast Asia and the world.

B – Disregarding the peoples' national rights, American imperialism has flouted basic human rights and extended the war of aggression to all Indochina, committing new and horrible crimes in addition to the long list of those committed over many years in Viet Nam, arousing outrage and condemnation throughout the civilized world.

In Viet Nam, the hopeless aggressive war, waged at enormous costs, has assumed the character of a barbaric genocidal war, aiming at destroying the independence and freedom of the Indochinese peoples.

At the same time, it is meant to wipe out life in general. It is real biocide. Mass massacres of the civil population are perpetrated every day during the sweeps and B-52 bombings and with many anti-personnel weapons being constantly perfected in order to facilitate widespread massacres, systematic destruction of resources and means of subsistence of the population with fire, gas and toxic chemical, ill-treatment of detainees, expelled from their homes or kept in prisons like the Con Son tiger cages, or concentration camps.

At the present level of the so-called Vietnamization, new and horrible crimes have been perpetrated during the bloody campaigns of "accelerated pacification." In Laos, with the intensification of the special war, massacres and destruction are assuming new proportions. With the extension of the US war to Cambodia, American crimes have been more extensive. GIs with Saigon troops under American command have been responsible for heinous crimes of genocide on the Khmer soil, in addition to those of Lon Nol – Sirik Matak against not only the Cambodian people, but also against citizens of Viet Nam and other foreign countries who have been massively and savagely persecuted and massacred.

The US leaders are personally responsible, together with their accomplices, US satellite states and Saigon, for all those crimes in the eyes of international penal law.

C – US barbaric and criminal aggression has met the resolute and victorious resistance of the people of Viet Nam, then of those of Laos and Cambodia.

In Cambodia after the *coup d'état* staged by the Lon Non-Sirik Matak traitors, the American imperialists and their lackeys have met ever stronger and wider resistance from the Khmer people who support Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's appeal of March 23, 1970 and have liberated more than half of the territory and put the oppressive clique in a tragic and precarious position.

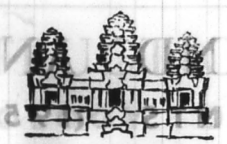
In Laos, despite the intensification of the special war by savage air attacks and by operations against the liberated zone, the patriotic armed forces of Laos, and the Lao people have inflicted on the enemy stinging setbacks in the Plain of Jars and in all theatres of operations and have achieved great successes in every respect.

In Viet Nam, principal front of the American war of aggression in Indochina, the long, bitter and heroic resistance of the whole people in the North and South for national liberation, has recorded many achievements on all fronts. The South Viet Nam people have thwarted the special war of the USA. It has foiled all strategic plans one after the other during the local war. In the flush of its victories, it has developed since the spring of 1968 its offensive position and has inflicted very serious failures on the American puppet and satellite forces. The North Viet Nam people has defeated the US war of destruction. While continuing its construction of socialism, it has strengthened their economic potential and defence capacities as the great rear-base of the South and a solid base for the whole country.

The American imperialists are facing an obvious defeat. The American Vietnamization of the war programme, born from reverses, is suffering today new setbacks and is heading inevitably towards total failure. Failing in Viet Nam, this neo-colonialist policy does not fare better in Laos and Cambodia. The more it spreads its field of action, the more heavy failures it suffers.

D – In this connection the Summit Conference of Indochinese Peoples constituted a brilliant manifestation of the solidarity of Indochinese peoples standing side by side in face of the common enemy, and strongly determined to fight till final victory.

(Continued page 7)



★ CAMBODIAN PATRIOTIC FORCES' BIG SUCCESSES

— At Sangke Satop, all Lon Nol forces wiped out: 1,000 enemy troops killed, wounded or captured on Aug. 4.

— At Kirirom: 4,000 enemy soldiers put out of action, 1,500 fire-arms including 12 cannons captured or destroyed from July 11 to 27.

ACCORDING to the FUNK Information Bureau, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces defeated the Lon Nol forces on the night of August 3 at Sangke Satop, a military sub-sector 55km north-west of Kompong Speu, refuge of the enemy forces which had withdrawn from Thomo Keo sub-sector, Kompong Chhnang province.

The patriotic forces quickly controlled the terrain, wiping out all the 1,000-strong enemy force, including a colonel, a major and many officers, and seizing 1,000 fire-arms, big and small.

THE National Defence Minister of the National Union Royal Government of Cambodia released on August 3 a special communiqué on the big victory won at Kirirom, 85km west of Phnom Penh, near Road No 4 linking the capital city to Sihanoukville.

The communiqué reports that on July 11, 3 Lon Nol battalions were wiped out at Kirirom where later on July 27, 3 others would suffer the same fate. In two other battles on July 21 on Road No 4 and at Sreklong, a "Khmer Krom" battalion coming from South Viet Nam was annihilated and a Lon Nol battalion whittled down. In total the enemy losses run as follows:

— nearly 4,000 casualties (7 battalions of Lon Nol troops and "Khmer Krom").

— over 1,500 fire-arms, nearly 100 tons of war material and over 100 tons of foodstuffs captured, hundreds of military vehicles, 12 cannons and 3 arms depots seized or destroyed.

★ KAMPUCHEA NEWS AGENCY TO BE OPENED

THE Information Bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea has announced that according to a decision by the Ministry of Information and Propaganda of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the *News Agency of Kampuchea (AKI)* will be officially set up on August 10, 1970.

AKI will replace the Information Bureau of the FUNK in releasing news items on the struggle of the Khmer people and their armed forces against US aggression, for national salvation anda ll documents issued by the RGNUC and the FUNK to inform the public of the Khmer people's valiant fight against the US aggressors and their stooges.

AKI, official spokesman of the RGNUC and the FUNK, will through its news items expose the dark manoeuvres and odious crimes of the US aggressors and their lackeys.

★ HU NIM'S STATEMENT ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS' ENTRY INTO CAMBODIA

HU Nim, Minister of Information and Propaganda of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and member of the Political Bureau of the FUNK, issued on August 1 a statement on the question of foreign journalists entering Cambodia, through the Information Bureau of the FUNK.

The statement said:

"1 – Cambodia is in a state of war provoked by the US imperialists and their henchmen – the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique. In such conditions, foreign journalists who are present on the battlefields are liable to be victims of war accidents.

"2 – The FUNK and the RGNUC have adopted a clear-cut policy, not only towards the civilian population, but also towards enemy troops and honest journalists from foreign countries. The FUNK and the RGNUC

(Continued page 7)

The U.S. Keeps On Blocking a Negotiated Settlement

THE session was once more marked by attempts of Pham Dang Lam, the Saigon puppet delegate and of David Bruce, the US envoy, to obstruct the settlement of the Viet Nam issue. The latter in particular harped on the so-called POW's issue.

Nguyen Minh Vy, the DRVN delegate, and Nguyen Van Tien, of the RSVN, stressed US responsibility in pursuing and expanding the Viet Nam war: had it really wished to terminate the conflict through negotiations, it would have seriously taken into account the NFL's ten points, but it has so far not ceased intensifying the war in Cambodia by using US planes to support the operations of Lon Nol troops, pursuing its special war against Laos and activities harmful to the security of the DRVN.

IADL...

(Continued from page 6)

The Indochina war concerns all the peoples of the world and all men. Therefore, all mankind has built up a world front covering all the continents and spreading to every home and touching every heart. The common enemy, American imperialism, now threatens all peoples and human kind in the quest for legality and civilization.

This world support is an additional factor vouching for the total victory of the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples over American imperialism, of right over brutal force and of civilization over barbarism.

II

The Congress declares that:

A – The criminal war of aggression of the USA hurts the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples and threatens peace in Southeast Asia and the whole world.

All peoples and all men who want peace and justice are concerned with the anti-imperialist struggle led by the Indochinese peoples for freedom and also for human values. The Viet Nam experience shows that the condemnation of imperialism on the one hand and the recognition of the legitimacy and legality of the struggles for national liberation on the other are closely connected, as are closely connected the peoples' fundamental rights and men's fundamental rights; that independence and liberty are the conditions of peace and international security; that the respect and the safeguarding of fundamental national rights of the peoples constitute on two levels, theoretical and practical, the very corner-stone of today's law.

B – It gives total support to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the ten-point global settlement presented by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam;

total support to the legitimate demand of the government of the Democratic Republic of South Viet Nam, that the USA respect its sovereignty and security and cease all violations of its earth territory and air and territorial waters;

total support to the just struggle for national liberation, the 5-point position advanced on March 6, 1970 by the Lao Patriotic Front for peaceful settlement of the Lao problem;

total support to the just struggle of the Cambodian people for national liberation led by the National United Front of Kampuchea, with, as its leader, Norodom Sihanouk and by the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia which is the only legitimate and legal government of the Cambodian people, and the 5-point position put forward on March 23, 1970 by Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk.

Training a New Generation...

(Continued from page 3)

In the 1968-1969 school year, we had 35 universities and colleges, in particular a university in the Viet Bac Autonomous Region: their enrolment doubled compared with the first year of US war escalation. The number of professors and lecturers increased 2.5 times and that of students, 2.7 times.

The elaboration of the curricula and the compiling of text-books were guided by this principle: imparting a knowledge which is "fundamental, modern and Vietnamese." Despite numerous obstacles caused by the war and evacuation to the countryside, teachers and pupils succeeded in building their own laboratories and making school aids with economical materials, which were suitable to wartime conditions. Between 1967 and 1969, the "Higher Learning and Secondary Technical Education" Publishing House supplied various colleges and secondary schools with 84 text-books totalling 1,582,883 copies, all in the Vietnamese language.

CADRES WHO ARE BOTH "RED" AND "EXPERT"

AT the students' 2nd National Congress in 1962, President Ho Chi Minh gave this advice to our youth:

"You, young intellectuals, must again ask yourselves these questions:

— Why study?

— Who to study for?

These are two questions which you must answer without hesitation, so as to get a judicious orientation in your studies."

For 25 years, directors, teachers, Party and youth cadres in higher education establishments have joined efforts to inculcate into the young generation this right orientation: "Learn to serve the Fatherland and the people, learn to effectively serve the revolutionary cause of the people."

The Vietnamese school leads our youth from the school benches and the amphitheatre gradins to the factories, the paddies and the construction sites. By taking part in the work of the labouring masses and doing their own bits in production, the student, even before leaving school, can put into practice what he has learnt in the books and engage in study and research with zeal and enthusiasm. Production and the people's fight constitute a big testing ground for his capacities. So a group of maths students can help agricultural co-ops and industrial enterprises work out their production plans, and this with Operations Research. In this close relationship between the school and productive work, in this intimate co-operation between the student and the labouring mass, the love for the industrious and heroic people keeps growing: born of the people and raised by the people, the student knows that he must in his turn pay his due.

The moral and ideological formation of our students does not at all detach itself from their education. On the contrary, it must serve as a solid basis for their studies and researches. The democratic organization of the colleges enable professors and students to contribute actively to the build-up of their schools and to the development of education. Through the youth organization, our students, conscious of their duty as masters of the collectivity, can help by their frank and constructive criticisms improve the direction and administration of their schools, and the teaching standard of the professors. And the latter, in the new relationship between teachers and pupils, are duty bound to assist their charges in their education and their moral moulding.

In 25 years, tens of thousands of cadres trained in our colleges and technical schools sent to the remotest corners of our country have thus returned and worked among the labouring mass, in accordance with the guideline President Ho Chi Minh had set for them: "Learning to serve the Fatherland and the people. Learning to help make our country strong and prosperous."

In the future development of our higher education, we still have to surmount other difficulties: our material and technical means, still poor, do not answer to the norms of really modern universities; the scientific and technical level is still far from equal to the revolutionary tasks, especially in socialist construction. The successes already obtained in our higher education, as in our education as a whole, and the inestimable aid of the socialist countries and all our foreign friends are the best stimuli to overcome all these obstacles.

Can the Puppet Army Bear...

(Continued from page 8)

Krek. The enemy built there an important base to protect the rear of the Saigon troops operating in the Krek area (Cambodia). It was defended by a dozen ordnance pieces including three 175mm cannons, and twenty armoured vehicles.

A skirmish was mounted near Xa Mat by the PLAF on July 15 to intercept the convoys of supplies for the Saigon puppet troops stationed at Krek. At 10:20 a.m. a column of 67 vehicles (16 tanks and armoured cars) was hit: 260 casualties and 66 vehicles destroyed in a 40 minutes' engagement. Meanwhile Xa Mat post was bombarded by PLAF artillery which put out of action 3 175mm cannons, 4 mortars and 20 armoured vehicles and exacted a toll of 50.

In another ambush laid on July 21 in the same area, the PLAF destroyed 25 vehicles and killed 175 enemy troops in half an hour's fighting.

On July 23, a convoy returning from Kompong Cham halted at Xa Mat and came under PLAF fire. 30 men and 15 vehicles and 2 cannons were put out of action. Two companies supported by armoured cars coming to search the locality were intercepted by the patriotic forces and lost about one hundred men and 7 vehicles.

On July 28, battered Groupment 333 was about to be relieved by the 52nd Regiment of the puppet 18th Infantry Division. At 3:30 p.m. 50 of its vehicles fell into an ambush set by the PLAF at 3 km from Xa Mat. After a 20 minutes' fierce battle, 45 vehicles (8 tanks and armoured cars) were put out of commission, 180 puppet troops were killed or wounded and many others captured. Meanwhile PLAF guns bombarded Xa Mat, completely silencing the adverse artillery, destroying 7 vehicles and wiping out 30 puppet soldiers.

The battle-count of the PLAF in these four battles (between July 15 and 28) was: 190 vehicles and 10 cannons destroyed and 800 enemy casualties.

FACTS have thus corroborated a conclusion that sheer common sense does not fail to reach: where the US expeditionary forces, though much better armed, trained and officered have dismally failed, there is no hope for a miracle to be wrought by the Saigon puppet army which, to boot, is less motivated to fight than the GIs.

"Vietnamization" will yield Nixon no other result than longer record of crimes against our country and people, just as against the US and its people.

X.B.

HU NIM'S STATEMENT...

(Continued from page 6)

have set free a number of foreign journalists.

3 – All foreign journalists who want to enter, or get out of, the liberated areas must necessarily obtain previous permission. The FUNK and the RGNUC are not be responsible for the safety of any foreign journalist who enters or leaves the liberated areas without previous permission, or accompanies US troops or Saigon troops or troops of the Lon Nol reactionaries.

"If the above conditions are not fulfilled, the responsibility for anything that might happen to foreign journalists, as well as for their missing colleagues, rests entirely with the Lon Nol – Sirik Matak clique."

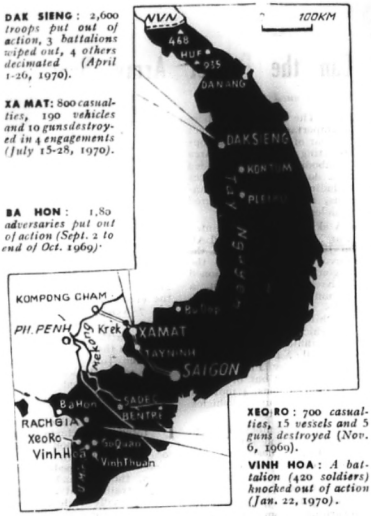
Apropos of "Vietnamization"...

Can the Puppet Army Bear the Brunt of the War?

(Last part)

REALITY on the battlefield is the gauge of the capacity of the puppet armed forces to take over the warload from the GIs. Let's examine the performance of the Saigon troops in the most typical battles taking place since the end of 1969 in the areas where they have replaced the GIs in military operations.

SOME SETBACKS SUFFERED BY PUPPET ARMY IN NEWLY-"VIETNAMIZED" AREAS



DAK SIENG: 2,600 *troops put out of action, 3 battalions wiped out, 4 others decimated (April 1-26, 1970).*

XA MAT: 800 *casualties, 190 vehicles and 10 guns destroyed in 4 engagements (July 15-28, 1970).*

BA HON: 1,80 *adversaries put out of action (Sept. 2 to end of Oct. 1969).*

XEO RO: 700 *casualties, 15 vessels and 5 guns destroyed (Nov. 6, 1969).*

VINH HOA: *A battalion (420 soldiers) knocked out of action (Jan. 22, 1970).*

THE RACH GIA TEST (MEKONG DELTA)

RACH Gia, a province bordering on Cambodia, is a lowland checkered by immense ricefields and the swamps of the U Minh jungle, and crisscrossed with many canals, most favourable for the US air force and puppet troops to make the most of their fire-power and mobility. Nevertheless, it is the area in which "Vietnamization" has suffered one of its most bitter setbacks.

In the autumn of 1969, Rach Gia was picked out as a testing ground for a big "pacification" operation of the puppet troops supported by only US aircraft. The quislings deployed in this action "marine" Brigade A coming from Saigon, the 31st Regiment of the 21st Infantry Division and two "Ranger" battalions of the reserves of the 4th Tactical Area.

From September 2 to the end of October period in which the enemy concentrated his efforts mainly on Ba Hon, a village located on a peninsula, the guerillas and regional troops put out of action 1,800 enemy soldiers and many US "advisors." In other localities in the province, the guerillas also inflicted heavy adverse losses.

But the hardest blow was delivered to "marine" Brigade A on the night of November 5 on the bank of the Xeo Ro canal. The PLAF simultaneously stormed the brigade HQ, the CP of the 4th Battalion, the positions of the 6th Battalion, the telecommunication company and the 74th Company of the puppet river flotilla.

Right at the beginning of the onslaught, which took the enemy completely unawares, the patriotic forces got control of the terrain and quickly overcame all enemy resistance. Within an hour, 700 puppet troops were put out of action, 15 vessels sunk or set on fire and five 105mm cannons destroyed.

After that disaster, the enemy command showed more caution in "pacification" operations. From Saigon, marine Brigade B, an élite unit of the puppet army was tossed into the tussle in Rach Gia province where it operated on the skirt of the U Minh jungle, in Vinh Hoa village, about 25 km east of the battle site where Brigade A had licked the dust on November 6 last year.

On January 22, 1970 at 2 a.m. the PLAF began their attack by directing a spearhead against the battalion CP. The enemy officers ran helter-skelter; a lieutenant colonel and many subalterns were killed. At the 5th minute of the engagement, the patriotic forces gained mastership of the battlefield. At the 7th minute, the remnants of the battalion were thrown into the canal and completely wiped out within an hour after taking 420 casualties including all the officers.

Meanwhile, PLAF artillery pounded the HQ and artillery compound of the brigade, putting out of action 60 enemy troops and a 105mm cannon.

At 4 a.m., the patriotic forces fought off two companies of the 2nd Battalion coming to rescue the 1st Battalion and caused to them 70 casualties. Four hours later, they intercepted enemy rescue parties and routed them after wiping out 150 enemy troops.

On January 23, Brigade A had to withdraw from the area.

A TYPICAL CASE: DAK SIENG

NORTH of the Western High Plateaux, where, as we have said, the US 4th Infantry Division was relieved by puppet troops, a big battle took place in April last around Dak Sieng post, near the Lao frontier.

The attack was made on April 1 against the post defended by 600 men of 4 puppet companies under the command of US "advisors." In the first week, PLAF guns knocked out 150 men. On April 5, five "Ranger" battalions entered the lists. On April 7, the 23rd "Ranger" Battalion tried to break through the PLAF siege of Dak Sieng, but fell into a trap set by a PLAF unit and was completely wiped out, suffering 320 casualties including two captains (the battalion commander and his assistant) and many US "advisors." The other puppet units were decimated and the operation fizzled out. The 42nd "regular" Regiment was then sent in to rescue Dak Sieng. On April 15, ten choppers were downed when they landed a puppet battalion near the beleaguered post. 70 adverse troops were put out of action and 6 pilots captured. After relentless harassment of enemy forces the following days, the PLAF wiped out part of the 1st Battalion of the 42nd Regiment. Reinforcements hurriedly called in by the enemy made it possible for the remnants of that battalion to rally, but on April 24, PLAF men stormed an encampment and after a 90-minute engagement completely wiped out the adverse forces: over 400 enemy troops were killed or wounded and 44 others surrendered to the patriots who set free on the spot 20 seriously wounded men after giving them first aid. Thus the 1st Battalion experienced the same fate as the 23rd. Two days later, the 3rd Battalion of the 42nd Regiment was knocked out. In a fierce hand-to-hand fight, 450 adverse troops were killed, and 86 others, including high-ranking officers and US "advisors," taken prisoner. Forty wounded soldiers received medical care and were released on the spot.

Troops were rushed in to rescue the last battalion, the 2nd of the 42nd Regiment, but they refused marching orders and the 4th Battalion disbanded. Demoralized by over 100 casualties, the 2nd Battalion turned tail.

In total, after 26 days of uninterrupted fighting, despite massive intervention of US aircraft and artillery, the PLAF were responsible for 2,600 enemy casualties, wrote off 3 battalions and decimated 4 others.

FOUR AMBUSHES AT XA MAT, NORTH-WEST OF SAIGON

SINCE the invasion of Cambodia ordered in May by Nixon, the Saigon puppet troops have shown great capacities of ransacking whole towns, where they were free to loot and rape. The Yankees seem to see in this a "revival" of the puppets' combativeness and pin great hopes on them for the realization of their "Vietnamization."

However, the repeated setbacks suffered in July by the puppet troops in Xa Mat region have given shattering evidence to the contrary.

Xa Mat, a little village near the Cambodian frontier, 124km northwest of Saigon, commands the Tay Ninh – Kompong Cham road via

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MILITARY OPERATIONS

ON THE SAIGON BATTLEFIELD

– In Xa Mat region, 124 km north-east of Saigon, 820 enemy troops and 209 military vehicles put out of action in 4 ambushes (July 15 to August 2).

– Near Bu Dop, 130 km north-northeast of Saigon, 29 enemy military vehicles blasted out of commission in a surprise attack (July 18).

IN THE MEKONG DELTA

– The enemy defence line from Go Quao to Vinh Thuan (Rach Gia province) between 195 and 210 km south-west of Saigon, cut off, over 600 adverse soldiers wiped out, a number of posts levelled (July 31 to August 4).

– In Sadec provincial capital, 59 puppet officers and NCOs knocked out after two PLAF assaults (July 28-30).

– In Ben Tre, 70 km south-southwest of Saigon, a dump of 1,500 fire-arms and 5 tons of ammunition blotted out (night of July 22 and next day), 250 men from two battalions of the 9th Division disabled 30 km south-east of the town (July 30).

– Near Hill 935, 40 km west of Hue, 100 enemy casualties, 16 choppers downed (July 30), 100 others wiped out (August 3-5).

– At Hill 468, near the DMZ at the 17th Parallel, 150 adverse casualties, 2 aircraft grounded, 6 enemy vessels sunk and 5 armoured cars wrecked (July 27 to August 3).